UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/259
S/1996/608
31 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 43 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 26 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement that was today issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Burundi (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 43 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) John H. F. CAMPBELL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/150.

96-19384 (E) 310796 010896

/...

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 26 July 1996 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Burundi

The European Union shares the deep concern of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and others about yesterday's military coup d'état in Burundi. The Union urges all sides to avoid recourse to violence and to take all steps to resolve the crisis by exclusively peaceful means.

The Union believes that the main immediate priority is the humanitarian situation. There must be no further loss of life.

An immediate beginning of a national debate is essential, leading to a real process of national reconciliation, founded on democracy and security for all sections of society.

In this regard, the European Union commends the efforts of former President Nyerere and regional leaders to broker an all-inclusive, negotiated settlement in Burundi, in peaceful conditions, and urges them to examine the possibility of continuing their efforts in this respect.

The European Union reiterates its firm commitment to the re-establishment of peace in Burundi. The Union is following developments in the country closely, in active consultation with partners in the United Nations, with the Organization of African Unity and others, towards the goal of restoring peace and security in Burundi. The Special Envoy of the European Union, Mr. Ajello, who is in the region, is actively assisting in this process.